

EPA-614

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To Phil North
cc
bcc
Subject Bristol Bay in the News March 19, 2012

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In the *Eugene Register-Guard*, the head of the Northwest Steelheaders Association explains how protecting Bristol Bay benefits Oregon and the Northwest. He writes: "The wild, sustainable fisheries of Bristol Bay generate \$450 million for Alaska's economy each year, and sport fishing is responsible for more than \$160 million of that figure. The Bristol Bay commercial fishery is the most valuable in the world; it accounts for 52 percent of all private sector jobs in the region."

Russell Bassett adds: "Bristol Bay is also important to the Pacific Northwest economy, because thousands of our commercial and recreational fishermen and businesses depend on it for a substantial part of their livelihood. Many guides from Oregon and Washington spend several months of the year working in Bristol Bay."

To the growing list of those who support protecting Bristol Bay, add the nation's supermarkets. The Food Marketing Institute, which represents 75% of the country's grocery stores – from big chains like Safeway, Food Lion and Kroger to small family-run food stores – has sent a letter to EPA supporting its watershed assessment and the sustainable fishery. Their action demonstrates that consumers value and appreciate Bristol Bay sockeye salmon.

In an interview from a *Cordova Times* story about FMI's support, the Institute's regulatory counsel, Erik Lieberman, said: "We are saying if you are going to allow this mine to proceed, you have to do everything you can to protect the salmon. We wanted to weigh in and let the EPA know this is a very significant decision. If there are insufficient precautions taken, that would interfere with our members' ability to serve their customers."

And in Seattle, the *West Seattle Herald* features a follow-up story on the successful Save Bristol Bay fundraiser put together by pilot and supporter Brian Cole at his local pub. The grassroots event raised more than \$4,000 and brought together 200 people who support protection for Bristol Bay.

Lastly, Alaska Native Everett Thompson explains how a tiny group funded by Pebble Limited Partnership does not speak for the vast majority of natives in the Bristol Bay

region who oppose the mine. His piece in *Alaska Dispatch* concludes: "It's a sad day for the Alaska Native community when people like those who run Nuna Resources abuse their connection to our land and heritage in the name of greed. But in Bristol Bay we know the resounding opposition to Pebble proves our cultures and people don't have a price tag."

For more information, go to www.SaveBristolBay.org

Shoren Brown

Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

GUEST VIEWPOINT: Protection of Alaska's fishery benefits Oregon

Russell Bassett

Eugene Guard-Register

Soon it will be spring chinook season, a time when fishermen throughout Oregon begin gearing up for an annual tradition of family, sport, harvest and food. No longer do creeks in the Willamette Valley fill with salmon, but Oregonians still celebrate their return. You can see it in our art, menus, stories and the boats in our driveways. It is also a time when guides and commercial fishermen start thinking about another season in Alaska's Bristol Bay... [Click here to read more](#)

Supermarket, investment industries want Bristol Bay fisheries protected

Margaret Bauman

The Cordova Times

National concern for protecting the Bristol Bay fisheries is growing, this time with the clout of supermarket and investment industry leaders speaking on behalf of millions of consumers and billions of dollars in assets... [Click here to read more](#)

Food industry asks EPA to protect Bristol Bay seafood source

Russell Stigall

Juneau Empire

The agency representing 75 percent of U.S. retail food store sales has sided with the Environmental Protection Agency in its ongoing assessment of Bristol Bay waters...

[Click here to read more](#)

UPDATE: West Seattle steps up for world-class fishery

West Seattle Herald

On March 11 locals gathered at Beveridge Place Pub to raise money for Trout Unlimited's fight against a mining corporation's plan to turn Bristol Bay, the world's most productive sockeye fishery, into a hard rock mine. \$4,000 dollars were raised during the event... [Click here to read more](#)

Food Retail Industry Flexes its Muscle for Alaska's Bristol Bay, World's Largest

Wild Salmon Fishery

MarketWatch

FMI Sends Letter to EPA Supporting Review of Risks of Pebble Mine & Large-Scale Development... [Click here to read more](#)

Time to protect Bristol Bay cultures, not sell them

Everett Thompson

Alaska Dispatch

Count me among the Alaska Natives who are saddened by multinational mining companies who work tirelessly to create the illusion of local, Native support for their dangerous projects. They call it "local consent" or "social license" when they think we aren't listening... [Click here to read more](#)

Letter to the editor: don't let pebble take it free

Ray Metcalfe

The Bristol Bay Times

Developers of Pebble mine have promised jobs to residents of Bristol Bay if the residents of Bristol Bay will let them extract and sell metals estimated to be worth over \$400 billion. However if the residents of Bristol Bay take steps now to insure that they get their fair share of that \$400 billion, they won't need jobs... [Click here to read more](#)

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